

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for delivering an email message to a recipient,
5 comprising:

receiving said email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of said sender from a presence server, wherein said
presence status indicates a presence status of said sender across a plurality of domains; and

delivering said email message to said recipient with an indication of a presence of
10 said sender on one or more of said plurality of domains.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said presence server extracts presence
information from a plurality of presence data stores.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein said presence server translates said
15 presence information to a standard format.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said presence server determines said
presence status of said sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence
20 information.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient responds to said sender
in another domain.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information indicates if
25 the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information is obtained
from a user registration process.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said presence information is obtained by observing activities of a user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in real time.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in non-real time.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender using a non-textual form of communication.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of domains is a plurality of client domains.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of domains is a plurality of server domains.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering an email message to a recipient, comprising:

receiving said email message from a sender;

obtaining a presence status of said sender across a plurality of domains; and

providing a mechanism with said delivered email for said recipient to automatically respond to said sender at a device associated with at least one of said plurality of domains where said sender is believed to be present at a time of opening said delivered email.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said providing step allows said recipient to respond to said sender in another domain.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in real time.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender in non-real time.

5 18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said recipient can respond to said sender using a non-textual form of communication.

19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for delivering an email message to a recipient, comprising:

10 a memory; and
at least one processor, coupled to the memory, operative to:
receive said email message from a sender;
obtain a presence status of said sender from a presence server, wherein said
presence status indicates a presence status of said sender across a plurality of domains; and
15 deliver said email message to said recipient with an indication of a presence of
said sender on one or more of said plurality of domains.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said presence server extracts presence information from a plurality of presence data stores.

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21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said presence server translates said presence information to a standard format.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said presence server determines
25 said presence status of said sender based on one or more rules that aggregate extracted presence information.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said recipient responds to said sender in another domain.

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24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said presence information indicates if the message sender can be reached at one or more indicated devices.

25. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said recipient can respond to said
5 sender using a non-textual form of communication.